

916

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a delivery apparatus for a self-expanding stent. The apparatus includes an outer sheath made from an elongated tubular member having distal and proximal ends, and an inner shaft located coaxially within the outer sheath. The shaft has a distal end and a proximal end. The shaft includes a removable member on an exterior surface thereof adjacent to its proximal end. The removable member being sized such that it prevents the sheath from sliding along the shaft proximal to the member until it is removed therefrom. Preferably, the distal end of the shaft further including at least two grooves disposed thereon. Preferably the apparatus includes a substantially cylindrical self-expanding stent located within the sheath. The self-expanding member having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis extending therebetween and an interior. The self-expanding stent further including at least two spaced apart longitudinal legs having distal and proximal ends, the distal ends of the legs attached to the proximal end of the member. The legs extending proximally away from the member and each the leg including a flange adjacent its proximal end, wherein the flanges are set within the grooves of the inner shaft so as to releasably attach the stent to the inner shaft.

20